

WINNEBAGO COUNTY



ISSUE 4



Photo- Mary Jo Maher

March 2015

WHAT'S GROWING ON?



PRESIDENT'S PEN

The tree buds are getting fatter; the day's length is increasing 3 minutes a day, and it is time to start getting ready for the gardening season. First, make a plan of what changes you want to make to your garden and list what you will need. Now is a good time to order seeds, bulbs, and plants from your favorite mail order companies. While your orders are fresh in your mind, list any preparations you need to do to get ready for the new arrivals.

You may be a very well organized gardener and have all your tools inspected, cleaned, and sharpened as they hang on the wall or rest in the caddy. If not, this is the perfect time to get everything in perfect order. If you are a typical gardener, you may also want to order replacement or upgraded tools to improve your results. Personally I am a great fan of stainless steel spades—they make planting much more fun. Tools that you no longer want can be donated to other gardeners. As you update your tools, please make sure you have good hearing and eye protection. Also, consider how you plan to prevent skin damage from the sun and prevent insect and tick bites.

One solution to consider preventing bites is the different insect repellent clothing—which can be effective against both mosquitoes and ticks. Remember that you need to be ready for the season as well. Everyone who gardens should keep tetanus protection up to date (within ten years). Starting an exercise program aimed at those muscles we use when raking, digging, stooping, etc. now can reduce that “wow I didn't know I had that muscle” feeling! The Wild Center is having rain barrel construction and installation workshops in April and early May. For more info call 920-730-3986. In addition to adding a rain barrel to your own property you could consider whether your projects could benefit from one—assuming agreement from the site owner.

Stay warm, get ready—we will be in the gardens soon!

Mary and Linda

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Photo-Mary Jo Maher

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates to Remember

Board Meeting	March 3
Orchid Show	March 7-8
Business Meeting	March 10
Parkview Flower Arranging	March 23
	April 20
	May 18 th
	June 29 th
Parkview's Fair	July 27 th
Outagamie MG Conference	March 28
Marinette MG Conference	March 28
Plant Health Advisory	March 31

HOME AND OUTDOOR LIVING SHOW

WINNEBAGO HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
WINNEBAGO COUNTY SUNNYVIEW EXPO CENTER
500 E. Cty. Rd. Y Oshkosh, WI 54901

March 13, 14, 15, 2015

Come join us on our new adventure at the Home & Outdoor Living Show. It's perfect timing to help quench our inner gardening senses that are beginning to stir.

WCMGA will have a booth at the show with MG volunteers available to the public to answer questions, and to share gardening information. Come and visit the various vendors displaying home improvement products, landscape ideas, foods, garden related classes, and our MG booth.

We welcome our new MG members to join the fun while also earning hours toward the community education category. You'll be in good company with fellow certified master gardeners.

Please remember to wear your WCMGA nametags, as this is also your admittance to the show. We're eager to see you at the show where we can share and conjure up new ideas and plans for the 2015 gardening season.

Co Chairs: Cindy Meszaros 233-3550
Joni Pagel 233-6619



Sharing Your Time

By Kathy Gore



Growing Oshkosh

Last summer I had a chance to visit the site of Growing Oshkosh with others and Dani Stolley, the Founder/President gave us a tour. I was amazed at the variety of things they do there and the produce they grow for the community. She also gave me great input as to what Growing Oshkosh is about and I want to share this with everyone.

Lil Hansche is the lead for Growing Oshkosh, a Master Gardener Small Group Project. I asked her to tell me a little about the project and what she does.

By Lil Hansche

The first time I heard of Growing Oshkosh was in a local publication. I read that it was urban gardening based on the Will Allen program called Growing Power in Milwaukee. I investigated the program and it piqued my interest. So on one summer day two years ago I biked down to the corner of Bayshore and Broad Streets to see Growing Oshkosh. The hoop buildings and raised gardens were located behind the Hooper Building. I was given a tour of the facility and know before I left that this was a program I wanted to be involved in.

The first year I was the only Master Gardener helping at Growing Oshkosh. I worked a couple of hours each week. Last year I was joined by Pat Behm. We plant, weed, watered, deadheaded and harvested. We worked early in the morning before the sun got too hot. We also (with permission) picked sunflowers and purple basil to use in the Master Gardener's flower arranging project at Parkview. I have found this a very worthwhile project. Plan to visit and consider joining us. There is always work for one more.

By Dani Stolley

Growing Oshkosh, Inc. (GO) is a community sustainability-based, 501c3 non-profit—and educational urban farm—headquartered at the Hooper Community Center (530 Bay Shore Drive in Oshkosh, WI).

Incorporated on June 15, 2012 to help alleviate local civic, socio-economic and environmental challenges *simultaneously*, GO seeks to revitalize and repurpose vacant, unused or blighted urban property into vibrant, inspiring and educational places of pride—while also creating jobs and job-training opportunities in the emerging field of local, healthy and sustainable food and food production.

We also inspire and empower using art, music and fun as a perpetual backdrop to the Good Food Revolution, an urban farm/local food movement popularized by Will Allen, Founder/CEO of Growing Power in Milwaukee. And we do this—collaboratively, with multiple community partners—to create a healthier, more vibrant and more hopeful community in which to live, learn, work and play.

Our mission is to raise awareness and educate citizens about the numerous benefits of fresh, healthy, local and “beyond-organic” food and food production by growing—and *teaching others how to grow*—sustainable fish, food, flowers, jobs...and hope.

Our long-term goal is to create a diverse network of productive and educational demonstration sites throughout Winnebago land, including urban farms, gardens and edible landscapes in partnership specifically with schools, social service agencies and non-profits, and community-based organizations serving at-risk populations, neighborhoods and ecosystems.



Follow me to page 4



Sharing Your Time-cont.

By Kathy Gore



Growing Oshkosh-cont.

Our short-term goals are to:

1. Build, install, plant and maintain 20 School Gardens at 20 different local schools and daycares by 2020, accompanied by year-long, professional educational programming for each school, daycare or youth-centered facility;
2. Build, install and plant 20 different Hope Gardens by 2020, either at the farm, or in the community (all food grown is donated); and
3. Create a total of 20 different living wage jobs (part and full-time) and/or student internships (paid or unpaid) by 2020.

Our “Fish Hoop house”, this year, will feature our 1850 gallon aquaponics system and a large variety of flowers (many of which are edible, and will be for sale in May.) We have not had very good luck with our lake perch farming, however, so instead of our little guys becoming food, they will likely remain in the system to live out their happy lives without fear of being eaten, much to the delight of my vegetarian and vegan friends!

So while our “Fish Hoop” will be largely educational, with some local food production, our “Food Hoop” will be more production-focused, featuring a couple of different growing methods, which we hope to keep in production for at least 10 months out of the year. We’ll be growing tomatoes, basil, spinach, nasturtium, micro greens, leaf lettuce and kale—again, many of which we’d like to sell as plants in May (when there is no Farmer’s Market)—although we will also be transplanting many of those same vegetables into our outdoor raised beds, or at our School Garden Projects.

We are always looking for volunteers, and since we’re also a job-training site, we’re always looking for interns as well. Email rowingoshkogsh@gmail.com if interested



It's a Gardener's Life

By Virginia Slattery

ERIC KROPP

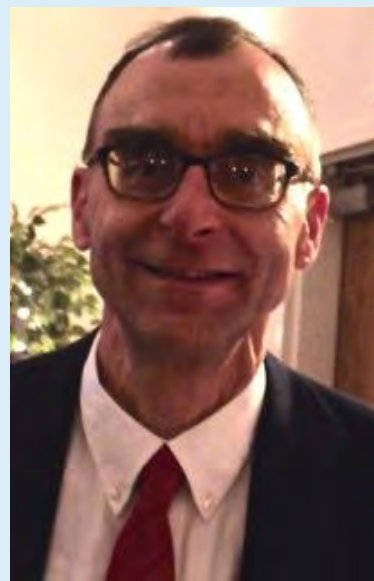
I was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania but grew up in coastal Maine, which is a good place for growing spruce, and of course, lobster. I attended Purdue University for mechanical engineering and the Illinois Institute of Technology for my Master's.

I've worked for organizations in Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Chicago, Illinois. For the last 20 years I've work for Miller Electric in Appleton as an engineer.

I'm a newly certified 2013 member. I've wanted the experience of trying out many projects. I've enjoyed meeting lots of the Master Gardeners this way. I've worked at the Farmer's Market and the Home and Garden Show. I also worked at the Parkview Prairie and learned lots about wildflowers and native plants. I helped at the Neenah Library, the Octagon House, and for the Invasive Species project--both buckthorn and garlic mustard. This winter I start as co-vice president and am helping with the newsletter.

Both my parents and grandparents have influenced me to appreciate growing things and things that grow. My father always liked to build walls around the yard with local materials--plenty of rocks and timbers from the beach. Both my father and grandparents were into vegetable gardening. I have not, however, followed my father's interest in roses (I'd rather appreciate them in someone else's garden). My interest in African Violets comes from my mother and grandmother. Actually, I'm a pretty bad gardener, but I'm hoping all this new learning will help to improve my garden.

I'm trying to integrate my many other interests into plants and living things. I enjoy riding my bike and am pretty good at spotting things at 10 mph. Of course, I've always got my camera with me. I also spend time at Trout Unlimited and like to snap pictures of plants and bugs. I hope to decide on a new camera this spring--who needs a dishwasher?



Easy to Grow Herbs

One of the definitions of herbs is “the useful plants.” What a dull and boring definition for a group of plants that impart so much joy through their beauty, scent, taste, and yes, usefulness.

You need not have a dedicated herb garden to enjoy herbs. They can be tucked into a flower bed or vegetable garden and even grown in containers. For the most part, herbs grow in full sun, need no fertilizer, and no supplemental watering once established. Here are a few of the easiest to grow to get you started.

Basil is an annual plant easily grown from seed. Plant seeds as soon as all danger of frost is passed, ¼ inch deep, 2-3 inches apart. Keep soil moist until seeds germinate. Harvest can begin as soon as plants have a few true leaves. Every time you cut a stem, two will grow in its place. When flowers form, snip them off immediately, as basil is more flavorful when it's not putting its energy into making flowers. Basil is used in tomato sauce and pesto, and also works well with veal, lamb, fish, poultry, white beans, pasta, rice, cheese and eggs.

Lavender is a perennial woody plant that grows up to two feet tall although some varieties are more compact. Buy transplants from the nursery in spring and plant them in the ground where they will stay. Once the plant becomes established, do not overwater it. You can expect lavender flowers already the first year. When flowers turn brown, cut them off to keep the plant looking nice. In early spring, trim the plant lightly just to shape it. Each year, the plant will get a bit larger, producing progressively more flower spikes. Lavender's scent is its reward. Cut the flower stems and hang them upside down to dry and they will retain their scent for many months. A few sprigs beside your pillow will ease your way to dreamland.

Like lavender, thyme is a woody perennial plant that will get a bit bigger each year and prefers the same dry conditions. It has tiny white or pink flowers, but is mostly grown for its leaves which can be used in a multitude of dishes. Besides the standard garden variety, thyme comes in lemon, caraway, coconut, mint and many other flavors. Harvest thyme by cutting the wiry stems and running your fingers downward along them to remove the leaves. Thyme can be dried for future use by spreading the cut stems on newspaper for a few days until crispy. The leaves separate from the stems easily after drying.

Garden sage is another perennial herb, grown and cared for the same as lavender and thyme. Its violet flowers are larger, prettier, and more noticeable than those of many herbs. Sage can be harvested long into the winter until it is covered by snow. The list of foods that are enhanced by sage is extensive, the most famous being stuffing for the Thanksgiving turkey.

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth



More Easy to Grow Herbs

One of the most rewarding parts of growing herbs is the pleasure you get from working around them in the garden. Herbs give off lovely scents and brushing against them releases a delightful fragrance. Here are some undemanding herbs for your garden.

Parsley can be grown from seed, but it takes up to six weeks to germinate so most gardeners buy it as nursery plants. Plant it in a sunny spot, water well, and as soon as it is established begin harvesting by snipping leaves from the outside of the plant with a scissors. At the end of the season, parsley can be potted up, brought inside and placed in a sunny window, for harvest throughout the winter.

Parsley is more than just a garnish to be pushed aside. It has more vitamin C per volume than an orange, and also provides calcium, iron and some B vitamins.

Cilantro grows and looks much like parsley, but has a much stronger taste and odor. And you get a two-for-one with cilantro. Its dried seeds are known as coriander. Leaves can be harvested all season. If seeds aren't collected, they'll fall to the soil and before you know it, you'll have tiny little cilantro plants scattered around the original. Some seeds may survive the winter to produce fresh cilantro plants early next spring. Cilantro is commonly used in Mexican, Latin American and Far Eastern recipes.

Chives are a perennial plant. They grow in tidy clumps that spread slowly. They like a sunny, well-drained location and the only care they need after they are established is protection from encroaching weeds. Chive seeds are difficult to germinate, so buy nursery plants or get a division from a friend.

Cut chives with a scissors by grasping a handful and cutting about an inch above the soil. They can be snipped and chopped and used in any dish that calls for a mild onion flavor. An added bonus with chives is that the pretty purple flowers are also edible. Toss them on top of a salad or use them to make an herbal vinegar.

Mint may be the easiest herb to grow of them all. Over the years, it will grow and grow and spread and spread if you aren't careful! It's a good idea to sink it into a pot in the ground. Cut the bottom off of a large black nursery pot and place it in a hole with an inch of the rim above ground. There are many mints to choose from: spearmint, peppermint, chocolate mint, pineapple mint, bergamot mint, apple mint and more. Before buying a mint plant at the nursery, gently rub your fingers on a leaf to make sure you like the fragrance.

Plant mint in a spot where it will get some afternoon shade and plenty of moisture. No fertilizer is necessary. Frequent cutting will keep the plants at their best. Use mint fresh, dried or frozen to flavor teas or baked goods.

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth



SEED FOR THOUGHT

By Jennifer Footit-Tank

Consider Cover Crops

Cover crops are an organic way to improve your home garden soil. This type of gardening can enrich the nitrogen, loosen tight soil, alleviate deep compaction and smother weeds. By revitalizing your soil you can decrease dependence on pesticides and fertilizer. For home gardens the time to use cover crops is the beginning or end of your growing season so you are not interrupting your summer vegetables.

Before selecting your cover crop, you need to consider three basic areas:

1. When will you plant the cover crop? This will determine which type of species—warm or cold weather species.
2. Do you need to increase the soil nitrogen? If so, you will look at legumes to fix atmospheric nitrogen. Make sure the seed has been inoculated with the correct rhizobia so the plants will be able to nitrogen fix.
3. Would your soil benefit from loosening or alleviation of deep compaction? The species to consider here would fibrous roots or tap-rooted.

Table 1. Cover crop selection matrix

Planting time	Goal	Best option
In the warm season	to smother weeds and loosen tight soil	plant buckwheat
	to fix nitrogen	plant soybeans
In the cool season	to loosen tight soil	plant oats
	to alleviate deep compaction	plant oilseed radish
	to fix nitrogen	plant berseem clover

Once you determine what your soil would benefit from and the species of cover crop, you need to look at seed sources. Many can be purchased as pre-mixed combinations or individual species can be found at garden centers, on-line, or local feed/farm supplies.

Management of cover crops will require mowing and incorporating the residue into the garden soil. Decomposition of the residue will vary with the type of cover crop you chose. Work the soil minimally so as not to destroy the soil structure you are working to achieve.

If you chose to only put in one cover crop per growing season or put in as many as three successive crops, you should find this strategy is very successful at helping you to achieve the results you are looking for from your garden.

For more detailed instruction and planting tables please refer to the following UW extension publication by John Hendrickson and Jim Stute, *Cover Crops for the Home Garden*: U of Wisconsin Extension, 2012. Print. Extension Publication A-3933-03.



THE LATEST DIRT

- ***Ginny Slattery is the new project lead for the Paine Project***
- ***Neenah Library and Neenah Parks is now a long term project (core)***
- ***Winter Escape and Summer Dreams was a great success***
- ***2015 2nd Level training is now available for registration***



Tried and True

Moss Removal

Submitted by Mary Jo Maher

Clear slippery moss off walkways by sprinkling washing soda on the moss covered surface, adding water to form paste and then letting the paste sit for a day or two. Rinse the area with a hose to clear away the dead moss and washing soda.

Mother Earth Living-February 2015

Hello everyone and welcome to the Master Gardeners Plant Health Advisors (PHA) new season!

Plant Health Advisors play a vital role in our community as we assist people with questions via phone/email/walk-ins about a wide range of gardening/environmental subjects. You will have the freedom to volunteer from the office at the Coughlin Center and/or from your home. You may also pair up to work with more experienced PHA members to "get the hang of things". We have found this very fun and educational to both interns and experienced members as we all have so much to learn from each other! There are excellent on-line resources through the UW Extension services and a great supply of reference materials located in the Master Gardeners office to help all of us answer questions. Don't worry! You don't need to know everything to be a PHA. You just have to be willing to "dig" up some information! Kimberly Miller has reserved Tuesday, March 31 at 6 PM, Volunteer room at the Coughlin Center as the date/time/place for us to get together and go over the procedures for the Plant Health Advisors for the upcoming growing season. We will have a sign-up sheet that night for dates (BRING YOUR CALENDARS) and we will also review how to use the microscope at this meeting.

There are also two opportunities for training (education hours) coming up. "Responding to Horticulture Inquiries" is a free one-day seminar that will be offered on Thursday, May 14, in Elkhorn, WI, and Wednesday, May 27, in Wausau, WI. Both sessions cover the same information, including insect, weed, and disease updates, as well as how to respond to horticultural inquiries. This is a wonderful program for any Master Gardener. Seating is limited and there is a sign-up dead line. Currently we have 6 members going to the May 27th session.

If you are interested in working on this MG approved project please Let me know and come join us on March 31.
Thank you.

Ann Gratton





WINTER ESCAPE SUMMER DREAMS 2015



SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS

By Master Gardeners



Kathy Gore



Julie and Matt Miller



Nancy Karuhn



Nancy Karuhn



Ginny Slattery

BUZZIN AROUND

BY MARY JO MAHER



Without a doubt, my favorite place to go is Madison. The city has so much to offer. As Dr. Seuss wrote,

***" Congratulations! Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!
You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are they guy who'll decide where to go.
OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!"***

In Madison, your choices are unlimited. I can never do it in a day. It is usually a weekend trip that involves my wonderful sister. It is what we refer to as "Our Annual Plant Buying Trip." This requires the use of the biggest vehicle available. But how much space is enough? We are talking plant space! We must make room for more plants and utilize every square inch! This often requires a stop at the local home improvement store where one of us unloads the zillion plants and the other goes into the store to find a better utilization of the precious car space so more plants can be purchased. We have bought many interesting items to make this happen, racking, shower rods, and bins. Our resourcefulness is never- ending! It never fails, while one of us in in the store buying these useful items, the other is in the parking lot with the vehicle unloaded with all the wonderful purchased plants, and a never ending parade of people asking about the plant sale that might be happening right there in the parking lot!

Our first stop will be at Jungs and their multiple locations.



Randolph



Sun Prairie



North Port



Verona

Jungs

About Jung Seed Company

Jung Seed Company was founded in 1907 and has remained family owned for 108 years. The grandson of founder J. W. Jung serves as the company's president and his sons (the fourth generation) are also working for the company.



Jung has come a long way since its beginnings as a small, home-based mail order seed business. The company now operates five retail garden centers in Wisconsin and owns eight different catalog and Internet mail order companies. The first garden center was opened in 1955, and now Jung's garden centers are located in Randolph, Stevens Point, Sun Prairie, and Madison (Northport and Verona).

Jung offers a wide selection of annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables as both seeds and plants. In addition, we offer bulbs, trees, shrubs, fruit, and a full range of gardening supplies. Jung introduced a few of the varieties we offer, including Jung's Wayahead Tomato and Jung's Hardy Wisconsin Pear, to the market.

Several of our mail order companies are specialty catalogs, offering a "narrow but deep" selection of plants. Examples include Edmund's Roses, Vermont Bean Seed, Totally Tomatoes, and McClure & Zimmerman Bulbs. Jung prints and distributes over 8 million catalogs each year to customers across the US.

Jung is proud to carry on the goals and philosophy started with the founding of the company: providing top quality seeds and plants suited to northern climates at reasonable prices and backed up with excellent customer service.

You can check out Jung's extensive mail order offerings or get more information on our garden centers at www.jungseed.com.



Stevens Point

Buzzin Around-cont.

Another place to visit in Madison...

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses
3758 E Washington Ave
Madison WI 53704
608 244 5661

Since 1913, Klein's Floral & Greenhouses has served our devoted customers from our East Washington location. Conveniently located on Madison's east side, we pride ourselves in the fact that we continue to grow most of our enormous selection, n of annuals, vegetables, herbs and perennials on site. Our retail area stocks a broad selection of soils, mulches, natural and organic fertilizers and pest control, garden gifts lawn ornaments and pottery, in addition to one of the largest selections of indoor and blooming plants in the Madison area. Klein's is also one of the oldest full service florists in Madison, serving the entire city and much of Dane County with delivery daily. Klein's team of talented designers is here to serve you for any occasion. Treat the senses and browse our lush greenhouses year round for a fun and unique one-stop shopping experience.

Being a small and family-owned garden center and competing with the "big box" stores, we are fully aware of their impact on Madison's local economy and their impact on our business specifically. Here are a few things we're doing to support the local economy and in turn make us stand out from our competition:

- Klein's continues to grow most of our plant product on site and much of it from seed (including one of the largest selections tomatoes, peppers and ethnic vegetables in the area), thereby reducing packing material and fuel needed to ship finished product.
- Klein's supports and promotes Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) via our monthly newsletter (subscribe on our home page @ kleinsfloral.com) and by purchasing many of our seasonal cut flowers from local farmers each summer. Many on our staff are themselves CSA members or have worked on CSA farms.
- Klein's is making every effort to protect our environment by using recycled paper and coir (coconut fiber) pots to replace plastic pots and using renewable and biodegradable rice hulls in our soil mixes instead of perlite. Doing so not only helps the environment, but also actually produces healthier and more vigorous plants.
- Klein's employs a large, stable and very diverse work force, who themselves pump dollars into the local economy. To learn more about the great people working at Klein's, click on "Our Staff" on the left side of our home page.
- Klein's attempts, as much as is possible, to purchase product from Wisconsin-based companies, including our weekly purchases of indoor blooming plants and all of our finished perennials in the springtime.

Also check out- Farmers Market on the Square Saturdays 8-12.

Places to eat- Edge Water on the Pier, Tutto Pasta or the Great Dane

Food for Thought

By Linda Loker

I received this recipe from my sister many years ago with author unknown. This is a fun project for children and grandparents!

A MAGIC GARDEN

5 TBSP salt

5 TBSP bluing

1 TBSP ammonia

5 TBSP water

2-3 feet aluminum foil, crumpled and broken into assorted sizes

Mix salt, bluing, ammonia and water. Place foil in a low dish or pie plate.

Pour mixture over it.

Crystals will start growing in a few days.

Note: Other colors can be used.

APPLE CAKE WITH HOT CARAMEL SAUCE

Submitted by Valerie Stabenow- Originally Shelly Ryan

2 large cooking apples, like Granny Smith or Northern Spy

(2 1/2 cups, chopped)

1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened

1 cup granulated sugar

1 egg

1 tsp. baking soda

1/4 tsp. salt

1 tsp. ground cinnamon

1 tsp. grated/ground nutmeg

1 tabs apple brandy (optional)

1 C all-purpose flour

1/2 C finely chopped pecans

1/2 C finely chopped dates (optional)

whipped cream

CARAMEL SAUCE:

1/2 C butter or margarine

1 C brown sugar

1/2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1/2 C evaporated milk

Cake: preheat oven to 350 F. Peel, core and chop apples to equal 2 1/2 cups. Use a food processor for this and chop the apples medium coarse. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream the butter. Add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add egg and beat until blended. Then, mix in baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add the apple brandy if desired. Add the flour and stir just until blended. Stir in apples, nuts and dates. Pour into an oiled 9 inch round cake pan and bake for 30 minutes or until the top springs back when touched lightly in the center. (Valerie's note: I used a Bundt pan and it needed about 50 minutes, perhaps a bit more)

Caramel sauce: In a saucepan, bring butter, brown sugar and salt to a boil. stirring with a whisk. Remove from heat and

Gardening Pains

By Mary Jo Maher

Call Before You Dig

No matter where you live, the gas, electric, cable TV, water and sewer lines that serve you may be underground.

If you are planning a project that involves digging, state law requires you to notify Diggers Hotline or MISS DIG at least three working days in advance.

To notify of your intent to dig:

Call 811 or Visit [Diggers Hotline](#) (for Wisconsin customers) or [MISS DIG](#) (for Michigan customers) Hearing Impaired (TDD) call 800-542-2289

What Am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a clump-forming, rhizomatous, semi-evergreen perennial which originated in Asia and has been cultivated in home gardens since early in the nineteenth century. My large, leathery leaves resemble hearts and have saw-toothed or wavy edges. My leaves will remain a glossy green for most of the year, but in colder climates they will take on a beautiful red or bronze coloring in the fall. My semi-evergreen leaves are often damaged by spring frosts and can take much of the spring to recover. Pink, rose or white blossoms appear on sturdy stalks in spring on plants ranging in height from 12 to 24 inches and in width from 12 to 18 inches. I thrive in USDA planting zones 3-8, prefer moist, well-drained organic soil and part to full shade.

My plants are propagated by division, leaf cuttings or from seed. The best time to divide plants is in the spring after I am finished blooming. This should be done every three to four years to prevent overcrowding. Basal leaf cuttings can be taken in the spring and seeds can be sown directly into the garden in late fall or early spring. I am deer resistant and am used as a ground cover, in rock gardens, front edges of borders, on difficult slopes and in containers.



Deadline to submit items for the newsletter is the 15th of the month

Minutes

By Kathy Schultz

Winnebago County Master Gardener's Business Meeting

February 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Egner presented the January report.

Secretary's Report: The board minutes are posted to the website, and the business meeting minutes are posted in the newsletter.

Speaker:

Sheila Glaske from the Paine presented "Viewing Gardens with an Artistic Eye", detailing the seven elements of art – texture, form, line, space, color, value and shape in gardens and nature.

NEW BUSINESS:

Projects: There will be a project lead meeting February 17th at 5:30pm at the Coughlin Center.

Long Term Project Leads Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel for the Home and Garden Shows announced the Master Gardeners will be present at the Winnebago County Builders Expo March 13 – 15th. We will not be at the Tri County Expo, as the cost increased sharply for this year. Please wear your Master Gardener badge for free admission if you are working the booth.

Long Term Project lead Virginia Slattery announced the tentative work schedule for the Paine for this year: April will begin clean up; End of May digging up tulips; Planting annuals early June; General maintenance 8-2:20 Mondays through Fridays; May 16th Festival of Spring (help selling plants), Adopt an area, ongoing through out the season; plant tulips October.

Pat Behm also announced May 15th they will need volunteers for the plant set up for the May 16th Festival of Spring sale. A sign up sheet is available for interest in working at the Paine.

Project Leads Pat Behm and Linda Petek spoke on the work done last year at the Omro Carter Library. Work will continue this year, and a sign up sheet is available for this project.

Education: Winter Escape/Summer was a huge success this year. Audrey Ruedinger read a letter from RoyAnn Moulton expressing her thanks for everyone involved in the seminar. The Silent Auction was very successful and beautifully decorated.

The bus for the Madison Garden Expo trip is full.

Eric Kropp asked that all requests and paperwork for projects be completed and turned in.

Budget: The 2015 budget was approved.

Extension Update: Kimberly reported that the positions in the Extension office are being filled, so look for new faces.

The state is offering Level 2 Master Gardener Class on Flowers and Landscapes starting in Mid March. This will be online, and cost is \$30.00

Mike Maddox will be offering a Plant propagation class in March and cost for that is \$30.00

Name Badges: If you want an additional badge, or need a replacement badge, the Extension office has the order forms. The cost is \$9.00. The badges are only made twice per year, so there may be a delay in receiving your new badge.

Group Project Monarchs: Mary reported that the counts done in Mexico show the monarch population is on the upward trend, but still low. The group was in favor of getting additional monarch friendly plants to add to gardens.

Meeting Speakers: the following will be the educational speakers at upcoming business meetings:

March- Darrell McCauley, Winnebago County Ag Agent will present Straw Bale Gardening

April – A presentation on Shoreline Restoration by the DNR

May – Linda Werner will present Keukenhof Botanical Gardens, Amsterdam

June – Picnic!

Other news: Diane Dougherty asked if anyone has feedback or ideas for the Silent Auction, to please contact her.

The next business meeting will be March 10, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Schultz, Secretary

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am *Bergenia*. Order: Saxifragales. Family: Saxifragaceae. Genus: *Bergenia*. Species: This is a genus of ten species of flowering plants. Common names: elephant-eared saxifrage, elephant's ears (due to the shape of the leaves), pigsqueak (due to the sound produced when two leaves are rubbed together), heartleaf *Bergenia* and large rockfoil. In colder weather, heavy winds can harm *Bergenia* so it would be useful to provide wind protection. Even when they are not in bloom, *Bergenias* are beautiful.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program

Projects:

Long Term;

Community Gardens-open

County Fair- Sue Bohn

Oshkosh Farmers Market- Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz

Education/control of Invasive- Lawanda Jungwirth & Audry Ruedinger

Emmeline Cook School- Marge Menacher

Lincoln Garden- Jo Helf

Neenah Park- Mary Jo Maher

Neenah Library- Mary Jo Maher

Octagon House- Jerry Robak

Omro Library- Pat Behm

Oshkosh Humane Society- Julie and Matt Miller

Parkview Flower Arranging-Lil Hansche

Parkview Prairie- Sally Lindo

Parkview Cutting- Bill Weber

Parkview Vegetable- Tom Weber

Plant Health Advisor- Ann Gratton

Shared Harvest- Ken Friedman

Paine Gardens- Virginia Slattery

Tri County Home and Garden Show-Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel

Winchester Historical- Sandy Mathison, Mary Rebman

Short Term

Growing Oshkosh- Lil Hansche

Habitat for Humanity- Mary Sheppard

MG Project Signage- Deborah Drake

St. Raphael Church- Linda Loker

Time to Grow- Virginia Slattery

Theda Care Memorial Garden- Diane Iott

March 2015

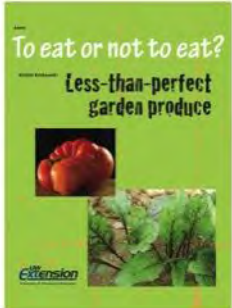
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6	7 Orchid Show
8	9	10 Business Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Parkview Flower Arranging	24	25	26	27	28 Outagmie MG Conference Marinette MG Conference
29	30	31 Plant advisory				

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20 ParkView Flowers Arranging	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

From your Extension

By Kimberly Miller

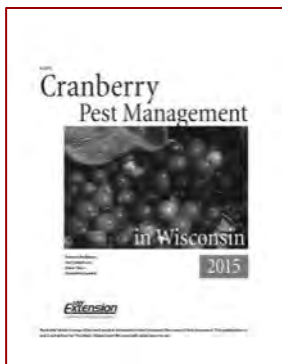


New publication from the Learning Store:

To Eat or Not to Eat ? : Less-Than-Perfect Garden Produce (A4044)

Insects and disease can affect fruits and vegetables in the garden. Most damage poses no health risk. This series of fact sheets helps you answer the question: Is it safe to eat? (2014; 24 pages).

You can view, download, or order this publication on the [Learning Store](#).



Cranberry Pest Management in WI—2015 (A3276)

Authors: Patricia McManus, Jed Colquhoun, Christelle Guedot, Glenn Nice

The latest recommendations for disease, insect, and weed pest management for cranberry crops (21 pages; 2015).

You can view, download, or order this publication on the [Learning Store](#).